REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND

SANITARY INSPECTOR

TO THE

CANNOCK

Urban Sanitary Authority,

FOR THE YEAR 1893.

CANNOCK:

A. WITHINGTON, GENERAL PRINTER, MARKET PLACE

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REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,

TO THE

CANNOCK URBAN SANITARY AUTHORITY

FOR THE YEAR 1893.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present this, my sixteenth annual Report for the past year ended December 31st, 1893.

The year has been remarkable in more than one respect; firstly, the unprecedently long strike, which especially and directly affected this locality, as well as the whole kingdom, by the general disorganisation of trade and commerce in numerous branches, as well as those more immediately connected with the coal and hardware trades; secondly, the severe and fatal epidemic of measles, which has prevailed in your district during the period referred to, which have both had a prejudicial influence on the amount of mortality, particularly in the very young.

Births

The number of Births returned as having occurred in your district during the above referred to period is 888, namely, 458 males and 430 females, which, taking the population at 21,000 as estimated to the middle of the year, gives a birth-rate of 42·28 per thousand, living; against 906, namely 475 males and 431 females, with a birth-rate of 43·14 per thousand, in 1892.

Deaths.

The number of Deaths at all ages, returned for the same period is 423, namely 223 males and 200 females, a ratio at per thousand of population of 20·14; against 232 males and 209 females, total 441, with a death-rate at per thousand of 21, for the previous year.

Infant Mortality

There have been one hundred and seventy-one deaths under one year of age, namely one hundred and sixty-eight in the district, and three in the Workhouse, with a death-rate of 8·14 per thousand of population; against one hundred and sixty-four, with a death-rate of 7·8 per thousand in 1892, and a death-rate of 19·25 per cent. on the number born during the year, against 18·11 per cent. in 1892, and a death-rate of 18·61 per cent. on the mean of this and the previous year; against 20 per cent. on the mean for the two years 1891 and 1892.

One of these deaths is due to Erysipelas, eleven to Measles, eighteen to Diarrhœa and Dysentery, seventeen to Bronchitis, Pneumonia and Pleurisy, forty-two to Marasmus, five to Tabes Mesenterica, twenty-four Premature Birth, five Atelectasis (two of these are connected with Convulsions), twenty-eight Convulsions and nine from Birth Debility; against fifty to Marasmus, five Tabes Mesenterica, twenty-two Premature Birth, three Atelectasis, and a few from Convulsions in 1892.

The following table shews the number of Deaths which have occurred in children during the first year of life, with the death-rate at per thousand of population, also the rate per cent. on the number born during the year, and the mean of each and its preceding year, for the ten years 1884 to 1893:—

	1884	1885	1886	1887	1888	1889	1890	1891	1892	1893
Deaths under 1 year	109	116	119	117	111	105	107	192	164	171
Death rate at per 1000 of population in Children under 1 year of age	6·4	6·8	7	6·88	6·34	6	5·24	9·32	7·8	8·14
Death rate per cent. on number born during the year	13·16	14·09	13·58	16·2	15·52	14·22	12·76	21·89	18·11	19·25
Death rate per cent. on mean of number born during each & its preceding year	13·85	13·6	13·41	16·34	15·91	14·87	12·64	16·98	20	18·61

Small Pox

There has not been any death from Small-pox during the past or any preceding year since 1888, when there were two

Scarlatina

Scarlatina is responsible for eight deaths, five under and three over five years of age, a ratio at per thousand of population of ·38; against three deaths, two under and one over five years, with a ratio of ·14 per thousand in the previous year.

Diphtheria

There has been one death from Diphtheria in a subject over five years of age; against none from this cause in 1892.

Croup

One death over five years of age is referred to Croup; against none in the previous year.

Fevers—Enteric

There has not been any death from Enteric Fever; against two in the previous year.

Puerperal

One death is ascribed to Puerperal Fever; against six from this cause in 1892.

Erysipelas

There have been two deaths, one under and one over five years of age, from Erysipelas; against one over five in the previous year.

Measles

The district has suffered heavily from Measles during the past year, there having been thirty-five deaths from this cause; thirty-three under and one over five in the district, and one under five in the Workhouse, a ratio at per thousand of population of 1·66; against nil in 1892. (See special report to your Board *re* Epidemic of Measles, dated August 31st, 1893).

Whooping Cough

There has been no death returned as from Whooping Cough; against four deaths all under five years of age in the preceding year.

Diarrhœa

Twenty-seven deaths have resulted from Diarrhœa and allied disorders, viz:—twenty-four in the district under five years, and two in the district and one in the Workhouse over five years of age, a ratio at per thousand of population of 1·28; against ten, eight under and two over five years of age with a ratio of 0·47 per thousand, in 1892. Of these deaths eighteen were under one year, six

between one and five, one between five and fifteen, and one over sixty-five years of age, and the greater proportion occurred in the later summer and autumn months.

Rheumatic Fever.

Four deaths have occurred from Rheumatic Fever, all in the district and all over five years of age; against three from this cause in the previous year.

Phthisis.

Thirteen deaths are referred to Phthisis all in the district and over five years of age, a ratio at per thousand of population of ·619; against eighteen, a ratio of ·85 per thousand in the preceding year. Of these five were males:—the respective ages 59, 34, 16, 39 and 18 years,—the callings, miner, labourer, miner, butcher, and miner, and eight females—four married and four single, the ages 43, 31, 19, 25, 29, 19, 45 and 31, the localities in the order in which named, in the males:—Littleworth, St. John's road, Cannock, Green Heath, Hednesford and Hednesford; in the females, Hednesford, Bridgtown, Hednesford, Hednesford, Bridgtown, Rawnsley, Bridgtown and Five Ways.

Bronchitis, Pneumonia, and Pleurisy.

From Bronchitis, Pneumonia, and Pleurisy, there have been thirty-two deaths under and forty-three over five years of age in the district, and one under and three above five in the Workhouse, a total of seventy-nine, with a ratio of 3·76 per thousand of population; against a total of eighty nine with a ratio of 4·23 per thousand in 1892. The diminished mortality from this class of diseases in that year over that of its preceding one, 1891, when the deaths totalled 146, with a ratio of 7·08 per thousand, was attributed by me to the almost entire absence of an epidemic of Measles during 1892, whereas the district has been visited with an exceptionally heavy mortality from this cause during the year to which this report refers.

The following Table shews the mortality from this class of diseases for the ten years 1884 to 1893.

Deaths from Bronchitis, Pneumonia and Pleurisy :—

	1884	1885	1886	1887	1888	1889	1890	1891	1892	1893
Under 5	29	45	40	29	30	47	37	83	39	33
Above 5	18	29	27	30	32	33	37	63	48	46
	47	74	67	59	62	80	74	146	87	79

Heart Disease

There have been nineteen deaths from Heart Disease in the District and four in the Workhouse, total twenty-three, all over five years of age; against twenty-seven from this cause in 1892.

Injuries

From Injuries there have been two deaths under and five over five years of age, total seven, all in the district; against four under and twelve over five years in the district and two over five years in the Workhouse, total eighteen; a ratio at per thousand of population of 0.33; against 0·85 in the previous year. The causes were in three accidental burns, in one burns and scalds, the four, in one instance male, and in three female; ages 3, 5, 23 and 15 months; in one instance crushed between a locomotive engine and some bricks, in another, crushed between two trucks on a colliery bank, both males, ages respectively, 29 and 51 years, the other case was a boy aged 13, accidentally drowned.

All other Diseases.

From all other diseases there have been one hundred and forty-four deaths in the district and two in the Workhouse under five years of age, and sixty-three in the district and thirteen in the Workhouse over five years of age, total two hundred and twenty-two, with a death-rate of 10·57 per thousand of population; against a total of two hundred and sixty with a death-rate of 12·38 per thousand in 1892.

Zymotic Diseases

The following Table shews the number of Births with the birth-rates, also the number of Deaths with the death-rates from the seven most prevalent Zymotic Diseases, frequently prevailing as Epidemics, for the ten years

1884 to 1893, not including Puerperal Fever.

	1884	1885	1886	1887	1888	1889	1890	1891	1892	1893
Total Births for years	828	823	876	722	715	738	838	877	906	888
Birth Rate at per 1000 of population	18·7	18·4	51·5	42·47	12·0588	42·17	41·078	12·57	13·14	12·28

Total Deaths from	1884	1885	1886	1887	1888	1889	1890	1891	1892	1893
Small Pox	nil	nil	nil	nil	2	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil
Measles	9	nil	19	2	3	10	2	21	nil	35
Scarlatina	13	5	nil	1	1	11	7	5	3	8
Diphtheria	1	2	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil	1	nil	1
Whooping Cough	14	18	7	nil	3	nil	2	13	1	nil
Continued Fevers—										
Typhus	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil
Enteric or Typhoid	nil	1	1	nil	nil	2	2	1	2	nil
Other or Doubtful	nil	nil	nil	1	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil
Diarrhœa and Dysentery	16	5	3	12	14	6	19	17	10	27

	1884	1885	1886	1887	1888	1889	1890	1891	1892	1893
Deaths from 7 Zymotic Diseases	53	31	30	16	23	19	32	58	19	71
Deaths from all other Causes	259	300	301	293	318	322	293	419	422	352
Total Deaths for each year	312	331	331	309	341	341	325	477	441	423
Death Rate at per 1000 from 7 Zymotic Diseases	3·1	1·8	1·7	0·91	1·35	1·11	1·56	3·3	9	3·38
Do. all other causes	15·2	17·6	17·7	17·23	18·7	18·9	14·33	20·33	20	16·76
Do. all causes	18·3	19·4	19·4	18·17	20·0	20·0	15·93	23·15	21	20·14

Deaths under 5 years of age

There have been two hundred and forty-five deaths in children under five years of age, viz:—two hundred and forty-one in the district and four in the Workhouse, with a ratio of 14·66 per thousand of population; against two hundred and eleven with a death-rate of 10·04 per thousand in the previous year: of these, five were from Scarlatina, one from Erysipelas, thirty-four from Measles,—one of these in the Workhouse but belonging to Cannock; twenty-four from Diarrhœa—all in the district, thirty-three from Bronchitis, Pneumonia and Pleurisy—one in the Workhouse but of Cannock, two from Injuries, and a hundred and forty-six from all other Diseases,—two of these in the Workhouse and both of Cannock.

Influenza

Only two Deaths are ascribed to Influenza, both in adults between twenty-five and sixty-five years of age, in

one of these associated with Bronchitis, and both occurred in the latter half of December.

Deaths in Workhouse

Of the total number of Deaths (423), twenty-five occurred in the Workhouse; fifteen of which belonged to Cannock, and ten to other districts.

Inquests

In all cases of Death resulting from Injuries, namely seven, an Inquest was held.

Uncertified Deaths

The number of Deaths returned as not certified is fourteen, six of these are ascribed to Premature Birth, two Heart Disease, four Convulsions, one Diarrhœa, and one Pneumonia and Diarrhœa

Sanitary condition of Green Heath and Five Ways

In my annual Report for the previous year (1892), your attention was called to the unsatisfactory condition of Green Heath and Five Ways, especially certain portions indicated, and, although at present little if anything has been done, I know that in the matter of Five Ways, certain works proposed to be done by your Board have been postponed, with the consent of the parties principally affected, over the winter season, as being unsuitable for commencing operations of the kind.

Additional Water Supply

One thousand two hundred yards of additional water mains have been laid in the district by the South Staffordshire Waterworks Company, namely in Cannock Road, Five Ways, Heath Hayes: Cemetery Road, Cannock: Old Fallow Road; Longford Lane, Bridgtown; Mill street and Railway Street, Cannock; Rawnsley Road and Eskrett Street, Hednesford. One hundred and five houses and one Board School (Rawnsley), have been supplied with S. S W. W. Co's., Water

Primary Vaccinations

From a return kindly supplied by Mr. F. G. Roach, Vaccination Officer, I find the number of Births returned as 877, Vaccinated 543, Dead 110, Unvaccinated 224.

This gives a ratio of Vaccinations to Births of ·61. Mr. Roach informs me that the number of Unvaccinated children will be considerably reduced in the next month, some of the children being only just over three months old.

There is, I think, some reason for congratulation that the mortality for the year, although still higher than is to be desired, has been somewhat lower than in the previous year, 1892, namely 423 with a death-rate of 20·14, against 441 with a death-rate of 21 per thousand

Appended are the Local Government Board Tables A and B, so far as I am able to fill up the latter, also accompanying this is your Sanitary Inspector's Report.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

JOHN C. BLACKFORD.

Cannock, April 16th, 1894.

APPENDIX.

Area of District in Acres	8,009
Population as per Census 1891 .	20,613
No. of Houses in District at end of 1893	3,886
Newly erected do.	72

CANNOCK URBAN

(A) *TABLE OF DEATHS during the Year* 1893, *in the Urban Sa*

NAMES of LOCALITIES adopted for the purpose of these Statistics; public institutions being shown as separate localities.	Mortality from all Causes, at Subjoined Ages.								Mortalit			
	At all Ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 65	65 and upwards.		Smallpox.	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Membranous Croup
a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	i	1	2	3	4
CANNOCK (U.S.D.)	398	168	73	22	16	73	46	Under 5 5 upwds.		5 3	1	
WORKHOUSE.	25	3	1			5	16	Under 5 5 upwds.				
Totals ...	423	171	74	22	16	78	62	Under 5 5 upwds.		5 3	1	

(B) *TABLE OF POPULATION, BIRTHS, and of NEW CASES OF I*
the year 1893, *in the Urban Sanitary District o*

NAMES OF LOCALITIES adopted for the purpose of these Statistics; Public Institutions being shown as separate localities.	Population at all Ages.		Registered Births.	New Cases of Sickness in each Locality, ce					
	Census 1891.	Estimated to middle of 1892.			Smallpox.	Scarlatina	Diphtheria.	Membranous Croup.	Typhus
a	b	c	d	e	1	2	3	4	
CANNOCK (U.S.D.)	20613	21000	888	Under 5 5 upwds.		2 1			
WORKHOUSE.				Under 5 5 upwds.					
Totals	20613	21000	888	Under 5 5 upwds.		2 1			

TARY AUTHORITY.

t of Cannock; classified according to DISEASES, AGES, *and* LOCALITIES

DINED CAUSES, DISTINGUISHING DEATHS OF CHILDREN UNDER FIVE YEARS OF AGE.															
EVERS.															
Continued	Relapsing.	Puerperal	Cholera.	Erysipelas.	Measles.	Whooping Cough.	Diarrhœa and Dysentery.	Rheumatic Fever	Ague.	Phthisis.	Bronchitis, Pneumonia, and Pleurisy.	Heart Disease.	Injuries.	All other Diseases.	TOTALS.
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
				1	33		24				32		2	144	241
		1		1	1		2	4		13	43	19	5	63	157
											1			2	4
					1		1				3	4		13	21
				1	34		24				33		2	146	245
		1		1	1		3	4		13	46	23	5	76	178

S SICKNESS, coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health, during classified according to DISEASES, AGES, *and* LOCALITIES.

ledge of the Medical Officer of Health.						NUMBER OF SUCH CASES REMOVED FROM THEIR HOMES IN THE SEVERAL LOCALITIES FOR TREATMENT IN ISOLATION HOSPITAL.
Relapsing.	Puerperal	Cholera.	Erysipelas.	Measles.	Bronchitis, Pneumonia.	
8	9	10	11	12	13	
				10	10	No Permanent Infectious Hospital.
				7	37	Notification of Infectious Diseases not compulsory in the District.
					1	
					1	
				10	11	
				7	38	

REPORT

OF

THE SANITARY INSPECTOR

TO

THE CANNOCK URBAN SANITARY AUTHORITY

For the Year 1893.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my second annual Report of the work carried out in my department for the year ended December 31st, 1893.

During the year I and my Assistant have made 2,669 inspections of premises throughout the District, and have detected 260 nuisances of various descriptions, the particulars of which are appended in the Summary to this Report. In compliance with Section 94 of the Public Health Act, 1875, 99 of the above nuisances have been reported to you, and the necessary legal notices served and complied with to remedy the complaint. The remaining 161 nuisances preliminary notices have been served, of which 159 have been satisfactorily complied with.

For your convenience I have given among other details, statistics showing the whole of the Nuisances which have been abated during the above period. (See appendix).

Water Supply

During the year periodical inspections have been made by me over the whole of the District as to the condition of the water used for drinking and domestic purposes, also as to the sufficiency of such supply. In one case I have served a preliminary notice to close a polluted well, which has been carried out and a supply of wholesome water provided. I have to report that in many cases where the water supply was insufficient (owing to the dry

season) the property owners have, without being compelled, provided such supply by connecting the South Staffordshire water. I am also pleased to report that provisions have been made by the South Staffordshire Waterworks Co. for laying down water mains in various parts of the District, thus enabling the property owners to have their connections made and the necessary supply provided.

During the year this Company have supplied 105 houses and one Board school with their water, and have laid 1,200 yards of additional water mains in various parts of the District, viz :—

Eskrett Street, Hednesford.
Cannock Road, Five Ways. Heath Hayes.
Cemetery Road.
Old Fallow Road.
Longford Lane, Bridgtown.
Mill Street, Cannock.
Railway Street. Cannock.
Rawnsley Road to Board Schools.

The different parts of the District now entirely without the Company's water mains are :—West Chadsmoor, Pye Green Road, and Cannock Wood. These localities only contain at present a limited number of houses, and are a considerable distance from populated places where the mains are laid. thus offering at present no facility for their extension. The only means of water supply to these houses are wells and pumps. I have had very few complaints respecting the quality of the water, but unfortunately in some cases the supply has at times been insufficient owing to the dry season.

House Drainage

During the year periodical inspections have been made throughout the District of the drainage and its condition. Eighty-three nuisances have been discovered in connection with the drainage, the particulars of which will be found under the heading of House Drainage in the statistics

given. As many of the above nuisances found had no proper system of drainage, and it being necessary to re-construct the drains and connect the same with the main sewers. Other nuisances found were defective drains and traps, and these were remedied by their re-construction. For the abatement of the above nuisances the usual notices were served and the work carried out to my satisfaction. During my inspection I have in several instances found drains and traps stopped up by obstructive articles thrown in by tenants. Cautions were given to the occupiers, and have had no further cause for complaint.

The following is a list of streets in various parts of the District, which are at present entirely without the use of main sewers :—

Five Ways, Heath Hayes.

Blewitt Street, Abbey ,, } Green Heath.

Moreton Street, Arthur ,, Church ,, } Chadsmoor.

Church Street, New ,, } Bridgtown.

In these streets there are, as a consequence, a considerable number of houses without effective drainage.

Ashpits and Privies

During the year regular inspections have been made by me over the whole of the District (more especially the populated places), for the purpose of enforcing a better construction of privies and ashpits generally, which you will find from the statistics given. In some cases the privy accommodation was insufficient. The usual notice was given and complied with In other cases where the privies and ashpits were in a delapidated condition, they have been pulled down and re-constructed to my satisfaction. The others, where repairs only have been necessary, have been executed. I am pleased to report a marked improvement in the privy and ashpit accommodation

throughout the District, and the general cleansing of privies by the tenants.

Last year many complaints were made by the contractor of the great difficulty in emptying ashpits containing buckets, brick-ends, and other obstructive refuse, thrown in by the tenants or their children. A general inspection of the District was made for the purpose of cautioning the people as to the improper use of the ashpits, and that proceedings would be taken against offenders. Since then I am pleased to report that this practice has been abolished to a great extent.

Night Soil Removal

During the year the removal of Night Soil for the whole District was undertaken by Mr. Blewitt, at a cost of £400, and he has emptied satisfactorily 2,409 ashpits. In a few cases complaints were received, but on my pointing out these to Mr. Blewitt they were remedied I am pleased to report that throughout my inspections I have had but very little cause for complaint, and that the emptying of ashpits has generally been carried out to my satisfaction.

Slaughter Houses

The total number of Slaughter Houses in this District is 29. During the year a general inspection of these slaughter houses was made by me, and 18 were condemned, owing to various sanitary defects and bad construction. Notices were given to the butchers to discontinue slaughtering in these until registered. My suggestions were in many cases carried out, and another inspection was made. In those cases I considered satisfactory, certificates were granted. In others my requests had not been complied with owing to the delay of bricklayers, but were later on made satisfactory, and after inspection their licenses were granted. I am now pleased to report a great improvement in the slaughter houses, and in most of them a better condition of cleanliness. In some I have had to complain to the butchers as to the white-washing of walls, removal of offal, and washing of floors after slaughtering, complaints which invariably received attention.

During the year periodical inspections have been made by the Medical Officer and myself of the slaughter houses, Market Halls, and butcher's shops in the District. On the 30th of June I made a seizure of bad meat from a slaughter house belonging to Joseph Cox, of Station Street, Hednesford. The carcase seized had suffered from tuberculosis. The Medical Officer was called in, and the same was condemned. A summons was issued against Cox, and a fine of £5, and costs was inflicted. Meat Inspection

Having given a description of the sanitary conditions met with during the year, I now purpose giving a brief outline, dealing with the condition of the inside of dwellings. I have more particularly directed my attention to the general cleanliness of the occupants and living-rooms. You will observe in the statistics given, 23 nuisances of this description were found, and each dealt with under their separate defects. In the cases reported of the filthy condition of the dwellings, preliminary notices were served to white-wash and cleanse the premises, which were satisfactorily carried out without taking any further steps. During the year 14 cases of overcrowding were reported, and the notices served to reduce the number of occupants. The above cases of overcrowding were due to the limited number of houses in the District. General condition of Dwellings

During the Smallpox epidemic in the adjoining town of Walsall, a female person living in a caravan at Hednesford was taken ill, and was reported as a suspicious case of Smallpox. The Medical Officer and myself attended, and the patient was removed, and the fumigating and disinfecting of the caravan and its contents carried out. Instructions were also given to the occupier, as to the necessary precautions for the prevention of this disease. Infectious Disease

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

JOHN PEAKE,

Sanitary Inspector.

Sanitary Inspector's Office, Cannock, 1894.

SANITARY WORK FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31ST, 1893.

Description of Nuisances.		*No. of Inspections made.*	*No. of Nuisances reported.*	*Formal Notices by Authority.*	*Preliminary Notices.*	*Nuisances abated aft. Notice.*
Dwelling Houses and Schools	Structural defects ...	...	2		2	2
	Filthy conditions .	..	6		6	6
	Overcrowding ...	...	14	10	4	14
	Unfit for habitation .	...	1	1		1
House Drainage	Cleansing of drains ...	...	6		6	6
	Defective traps ...	...	4		4	4
	Defective drains ...	...	21	7	14	21
	No drainage	...	52	6	46	52
Accumulation of wash and deposits of refuse		...	2		2	2
Polluted wells closed		...	1		1	1
Privy and Ashpit Accommodation	Privies too close to dwellings ...	..	4	3	1	4
	Insufficient privy & ashpit accommodation	...	9	6	3	9
	Re-construction of privies & ashpits	...	67	28	39	65
Lodging Houses		...	15		15	15
Paved areas out of repair... ...		...	2		2	2
Removal of urinals		...	2		2	2
Stagnant water in cellars... ...		...	1		1	1
Sanitary defects in slaughter houses		...	18	18		18
Canal boats...		91	19	19		19
Bad construction of pigstyes ...		...	4		4	4
Pigstyes too close to dwelling houses		...	1	1		1
Conversion of earth closets into water closets		...	5		5	5
Additional water closets		...	4		4	4
Houses supplied with water 105						
TOTALS		91	260	99	161	258

CANNOCK URBAN SANITARY AUTHORITY.

CANAL BOATS ACTS—1877 and 1884.

Annual Report of Inspector

For Year ended December 31st, 1893.

GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in submitting my Annual Report of the work carried out under the Canal Boat Acts, 1877 and 1884, for the year ended December 31st, 1893. During the year I and my assistant have visited the Coal Wharves at East Cannock and Walk Mill. I have directed my attention to the former more than the latter, at which place there being more cabin boats. We made 18 visits to the East Cannock Wharf and 6 visits to the Walk Mill Wharf during the year, and inspected and reported to my Board a total number of 91 cabin boats.

During the 16 weeks' Coal Strike no inspections could be made owing to the boats being locked up. This will give a satisfactory explanation of the decreased number of inspections made, as compared with that of the previous year.

The infringements of the Acts which came under our notice were :—

	NOS.
Marking...	6
Repairing and Painting of Cabins ...	3
Absence of Certificates	6
Cleanliness	3
Overcrowding	1
Total	19

During our inspections several cases have occurred with respect to the Certificates of Registration not forthcoming. In most cases the captain of the boat had gone home taking the certificate with him for safety, and had left his man in charge of the boat In others new certificates were being prepared by the Registration Authorities In three cases I have had to call the attention of the captain to the uncleanly condition of his cabin, which defects were remedied before the boat left.

On December 13th my Assistant made an inspection of a cabin boat belonging to the Shropshire Union Railway and Canal Co., and there found a female over 12 years of age travelling with her parents. I reported this to my Board, and instructions were given to prosecute under the Acts and Regulations. Before issuing the summons I had a correspondence with the Chief-Inspector, and as I had not inspected the boat myself, it was doubtful of a successful prosecution. Therefore I have not commenced these proceedings.

During the year the total number of occupants of the boats inspected were as set out in the following summary. Upon asking why the 91 children were not at school, I was invariably informed that many of the schools at which they usually attended had been closed during an outbreak of some infectious disease, and that they had brought their children out for a voyage.

Summary of the number of occupants found on canal boats during the year:—

MONTH.	MALES.	FEMALES.	CHILDREN.
January	—	—	—
February	17	3	4
March	16	2	2
April	15	7	8
May	—	—	—
June	23	4	3
July	—	—	—
August	5	—	—
September	—	—	—
October	27	2	2
November	15	6	8
December	30	13	14
Totals ...	148	37	41

I was in many cases informed that the masters of the boats made their homes in their own towns, and that they had no desire for their wives and children to travel with them, unless in cases of necessity. Since the Coal Strike, some were compelled to close their homes, and bring their wives with them, owing to poverty.

During my inspections of the cabins I have directed my attention more especially in ascertaining whether any of the occupants had been or were suffering from any kinds of sickness during the cholera and small pox epidemic. I am pleased to report that only two cases of sickness came under my notice, and that no case of Infectious disease was met with throughout the year. The sick persons were suffering from nothing more than severe colds, and were attended by a doctor while staying at the wharf.

I have again pleasure in reporting that during my inspections, I have received civility from the masters, and they have showed willingness to render any assistance for my examination of the boat, and that, generally, I have found both the occupants and the cabins clean.

I have to report that during the outbreak of Small Pox in the adjoining town of Walsall, instructions were given as to precautions advisable, to prevent this disease.

I am, Gentlemen,
Your obedient servant,
JOHN PEAKE,
Inspector of Canal Boats.

Sanitary Inspector's Office,
Local Board, Cannock,
January 15th, 1894.